

# Your Guide to King County & City of Seattle Public Utilities Inspections in the Lower Duwamish Waterway Area

*The King County Industrial Waste Program & City of Seattle Public Utilities have prepared this fact sheet for the businesses we are contacting during the Lower Duwamish Waterway cleanup*

February, 2003

## Why are you contacting my business?

King County and the City of Seattle need your help to reduce the amount of contaminants discharged to the Lower Duwamish Waterway. We are asking you to participate in our effort to locate and control ongoing sources of contaminants to the waterway.

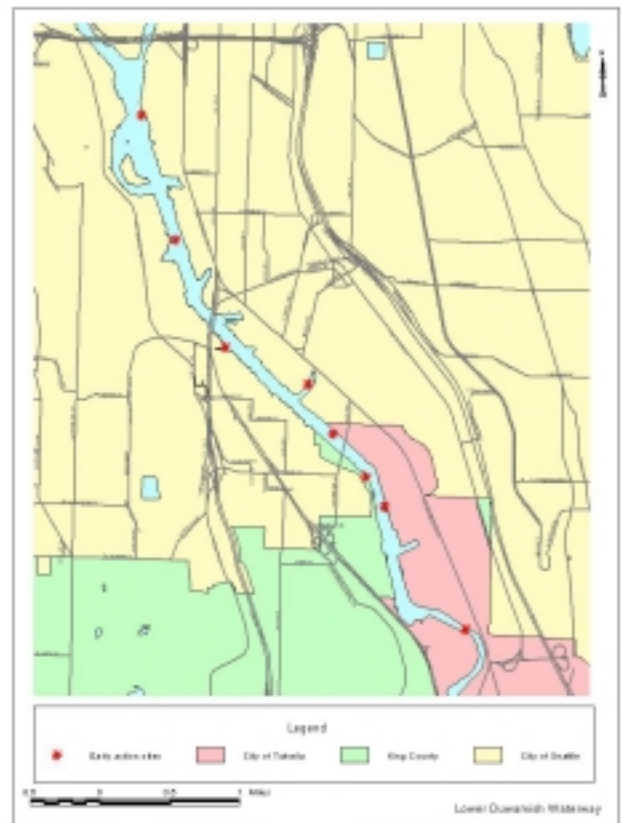
Federal, state, and other government agencies are investigating the waterway to determine how much contamination currently exists in the waterway sediments (materials that settle to the bottom of the river). Following the investigation, contaminated sediments in the waterway will be cleaned up to protect human health and aquatic organisms. However, before contaminated sediment can be cleaned up, ongoing discharges of pollutants to the waterway must be controlled.

## What is the goal of these business surveys and inspections?

King County and Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) are working with businesses in the area to reduce the amount of pollutants currently discharged to the waterway via storm drains and combined sewer overflows (CSOs). Understanding and controlling ongoing sources of contaminants to the river is very important to minimize the potential for sediment recontamination following cleanup.

## What is the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund site?

A six-mile stretch of the Lower Duwamish Waterway from the southern tip of Harbor Island, south to about the pedestrian bridge at S102<sup>nd</sup>/103<sup>rd</sup> St was listed as a federal Superfund site in 2001. The Superfund list contains the nation's most contaminated hazardous waste sites that are targeted for investigation and cleanup.



Waterway investigations have determined that sediment in the Lower Duwamish Waterway contains polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs), polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), phthalates (plasticizers), metals (arsenic and mercury), and other organic compounds. Sources of the contaminants include industrial releases, combined sewer overflows, and urban storm water runoff.

### **Who is Responsible for Investigating and Cleaning Up the Lower Duwamish Waterway?**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) are the lead agencies responsible for the Lower Duwamish Waterway site and are in the early stages of investigating the extent and severity of contamination.

In addition to EPA and Ecology, four major property owners on the waterway (the Port of Seattle, City of Seattle, King County, and The Boeing Company) have agreed to begin the cleanup. In April 2000, these four partners formed the Lower Duwamish Waterway Group (LDWG). EPA, Ecology, and LDWG began working together to investigate and begin cleanup of some of the most highly contaminated areas, known as early action sites.

Approval from EPA and Ecology is needed before any cleanup actions begin. These agencies will not approve any cleanups until the technical information is reviewed, and public comment is taken into account.

### **What are the surveys and inspections looking for?**

King County and SPU's surveys and inspections will focus upon identifying and controlling ongoing sources of contaminants that could impact storm water and/or CSOs discharging into the Lower Duwamish Waterway to minimize the potential for recontamination of the waterway sediments.

### **Will King County and SPU inspect my business?**

King County and the SPU are in the process of determining which businesses to inspect by analyzing the results of their surveys and reviewing information from other government agencies. Inspections will begin in February 2003.

### **Who is doing the surveying and inspections?**

Staff from The King County Industrial Waste Program (KCIW) and SPU is conducting these Industrial and Commercial surveys.

Staff from of the following agencies will conduct inspections: KCIW; the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County; City of Seattle Public Utilities (SPU); and Public Health – Seattle & King County. Ecology staff may also assist with some of these inspections.

### **What takes place during an inspection?**

Inspections will be similar to those you may have already experienced as part of King County's industrial pretreatment and local hazardous waste programs and SPU's storm water pollution prevention program. We will carry out business inspections under our existing code authority.

Our inspectors will look at inside work areas to evaluate pollutants discharged to the sanitary sewer system or other waste disposal systems. We will also examine outdoor activities that could contribute pollutants to the waterway via stormwater runoff.

King County works with local industries to make sure that all pollutants that businesses discharge to the King County sewerage and solid waste system meet federal and county limits. In the inspection process, when we find businesses that utilize chemicals for which local discharge limits have been established, the county will advise them on wastewater pretreatment and Best Management Practices (BMPs) that help reduce the quantity of pollutants discharged.

SPU manages the public storm drain system in the City. For stormwater-related pollutants, inspectors will advise you how to comply with the City's storm water code and reduce the amount of pollution leaving your property by using best management practices.

### **Contact Information for the Inspection Program:**

King County Industrial Waste Program  
130 Nickerson Street, Suite 200  
Seattle, Washington 98109-1658  
(206) 263-3000 or TTY relay service at 1-800-833-6388.  
<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/findwaste/index.htm>

## Contact information con't

Seattle Public Utilities MS 07-49-00  
Key Tower, 700 Fifth Ave, Suite 4900  
Seattle, WA 98104-5004  
(206) 615-1636  
<http://www.cityofseattle.net/util/surfacewater/default.htm>

## For More Information about the Superfund Site

### Washington State Department of Ecology

Rick Huey, 425-649-7256  
Richard Thomas, 425-649-7208  
Northwest Regional Office  
Toxics Cleanup Program  
3190 - 160th Ave. SE,  
Bellevue, WA 98008

### Environmental Protection Agency

EPA Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue,  
Seattle, WA 98101  
o General Information: Cindy  
Colgate Schuster, 206-553-1815  
o Si desea hablar con alguien que habla  
español, llame a Lilibeth Serrano Vélez,  
206-553-1388.  
<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/webpage/Lower+Duwamish+Waterway+site>

### Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition

5410 First Avenue NE  
Seattle, WA 98105  
(206) 954-0218  
[info@duwamishcleanup.org](mailto:info@duwamishcleanup.org)  
[www.duwamishcleanup.org](http://www.duwamishcleanup.org)

## Written information about the Superfund site is housed at the following locations:

EPA Region 10 Superfund Records Center  
1200 Sixth Avenue, ECL-076  
Seattle, WA 98101  
206-553-4494 or toll-free at 1-800-424-4372  
Please call for an appointment.

Washington State Department of Ecology  
3190 160th Avenue S.E.  
Bellevue, WA 98008  
425-649-7190  
Please call for an appointment

Georgetown Gospel Chapel  
6606 Carleton Avenue South  
Seattle, WA 98108  
206-767-3207  
Please call Pastor Leroy Hedman for an appointment.

## How storm water runoff and wastewater may end up in the Lower Duwamish Waterway:

In the Duwamish area, storm water can go into three different types of collection pipes:

- o The public combined sewer carries municipal sewage, industrial wastewater, and storm water runoff (rain or snow that washes off streets, parking lots, and industrial areas).
- o Public storm drains carry storm water runoff directly to the waterway from upland areas in the Lower Duwamish Waterway drainage basin.
- o Private storm drains carry storm water runoff directly to the Duwamish Waterway from waterfront properties.

During heavy rains, the combined sewer pipes may get too full and start to overflow, an event called a "combined sewer overflow" (CSO). CSOs contain a mixture of storm water, municipal sewage, and industrial wastewater. All may be harmful to public health and aquatic life if they carry polluting chemicals into local bodies of water, including the Lower Duwamish Waterway.

## Accessibility Information

This information is available in accessible formats for persons with disabilities upon request. Please call 206-263-3000 or TTY relay service at 1-800-833-6388